



ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

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Commission Reviews 9th Biennial Transmission Assessment

(Phoenix) Corporation Commissioners reviewed the 9th Biennial Transmission Assessment which ensures the adequacy and reliability of Arizona's existing and planned transmission systems.

The Commission review included filings from 19 entities including Arizona Public Service Company (APS), Tucson Electric Power (TEP), SunZia, and Salt River Project (SRP) to name a few. Staff concluded that Arizona's utility industry has taken the proper steps to address regional transmission planning issues, provide enhancements and additions, and develop solutions for any potential load constraints.

The Commission held a workshop where the entities presented their 10 year plans. The plans include 36 transmission projects of approximately 707 miles in length. Of those projects, 49 are beyond the 10-year horizon. Staff concluded after the workshops and after reviewing the detailed filings that the load demands for 2016 through 2025 have been met.

Commission Approves Telecommunications Companies' Service Applications

The Corporation Commission approved the applications for three companies to provide or expand wireless "Lifeline" service for low income residents.

The Commission designates which companies can operate as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC) to provide federally funded Lifeline service. As an ETC, a company can receive federal funds in order to provide the wireless services to low income residents.

The Commission approved Tag Mobile LLC's application to be designated as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in several zip codes throughout the state, many in rural areas. The company currently serves 84,000 customers nationwide.

The Commission also approved expansion of two other similar telecommunications companies currently operating in Arizona. I-Wireless LLC and Telrite were granted approval to expand their Lifeline services thorough out the state including which will increase service options in many rural communities.

UNS Gas Customers to Receive Temporary Credit

UNS Gas customers will receive a temporary credit on their accounts. The Corporation Commission approved an application to credit customers 4 cents per therm between the highest demand periods from November 2016 to April of 2017. Temporary Customer Credit comes from an over collection by the company based on a mechanism in place that allows the company to recoup the cost of natural gas. Any under-collections can be recovered through rates and over-collections are refunded back to the customer

when the over-collection balance reaches \$10 million in order to get the refunds done in a timely manner. The average customer bill will decrease by almost \$3, from \$66.81 to \$63.93.